

Gleaning In The Fields of Grace (Ruth 2:6-13)

Proposition: Every one of us can experience a full and abundant gleaning from the fields of grace by following the gleaning principals laid out in our text.

I. Gleaning the Forbearance of Grace (Vs. 6-8)

A. Forbearance that was Undeserved (Vs. 6)

B. Forbearance that was Unbounded (Vs. 8)

II. Gleaning the Fruitfulness of Grace (Vs. 8-9)

A. A Steering Fruitfulness (Vs. 8b-9a)

B. A. Sheltering Fruitfulness (Vs. 9b)

C. A Sustaining Fruitfulness (Vs. 9c)

III. Gleaning the Fullness of Grace (Vs. 10-13)

A. The Falling in Fullness (Vs. 10)

B. The Fact behind Fullness (Vs. 11-12)

C. The Function of Fullness (Vs. 13)

Gleaning in the Fields of Grace
(Ruth 1:6-13) I have to see the
video montages that are put
together around the 4th of July
set to the tune of America the
beautiful. Usually when the song
gets to the part about the amber
waves of grain, the video will show
the boundless fields of the mid west
with the rich abundance of heavy
ears of grain. Nothing speaks more
clearly to the abundance of the
United States as its rolling fields
of grain. And when it comes to
God nothing speaks to God's abund-
ance than the endless, amazing
grace of God. The unmerited
undeserved favor of Almighty God to-
ward sinful men. Some have given us this
acrostic to try to sum up the grace
of God: God's riches at Christ's Expense.
If we ever see a snapshot of the grace
of God in the OT, we find one here. "All
of the glories she experienced were because
of the grace that she experienced. And the
I. Gleaning the Forbearance of Grace
The first grace of God to glean is
the forbearance of God, the putting
up w/ us by God. Really its the start-

- since David and Goliath was in.

Grace. Note how we see this in Ruth's life.
A Forgiveness that was Unhesitant -
(Vs 6) She is readily identified as "Ruth the Moabitess." You might think so what
clim from Canada or Mexico. But in this Jewish
nation this was critical. Deut 23: 3 says
Because of their defilement and wickedness,
they were cut off, cursed by God. Ruth was
one, cursed and rejected by God. She is a
picture of you and I, rejected because of
our sinful condition, and in line to incur the
full measure of God's wrath. ⁽³⁾ Eph 2: 2-3 tells us
We were disobedient, depraved, and damned just like Ruth.
B. Forgiveness that was Unbounded -
Vs 8. It doesn't sound to me like she is
a rejected and despised Moabitess. Oh
amazing grace, how sweet the sound.
You and I that were cut off and rejected
have now been, grafted in and accepted. He calls
her daughter. How tenderly he approaches
Ruth. We were sinners but by grace we are
saints. Once children of wrath but now
Children of God. Had no hope now a blessed hope
once rejected, now received. Michael Jordan can
take a basketball and dunk it in a 10ft goal

II. Gleaning the Fruitfulness of Grace

Part of gleaning, what Ruth has been
doing, is picking up off the ground the
fruit from the harvest that was left
behind. What she encounters in following

- 1) ...and the truth of the matter us that all of the grace that Ruth experienced in the field of Boaz is the same grace that can be experienced by each and every one of us on a daily basis. Every one of us can experience a full and abundant gleanings from the fields of grace by following the gleanings principals laid out in our text.
- 2) Deuteronomy 23:3 An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD; even to their tenth generation shall they not enter into the congregation of the LORD for ever:
- 3) Ephesians 2:2-3 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.
- 4) ...in a 10ft goal from 15 ft away, that's what you call talent, Donald Trump can sign his name to a piece of paper and buy a skyscraper. We call that capital. The United States Treasury department can take a special piece of paper and some special ink, press it between special plates and make a \$100 bill. We call that money. The Wright Brothers could take some used bicycle parts, wire, metal and canvas covering and make an airplane. We call that genius. Michelangelo could take some brushes and some paints and paint a masterpiece on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. We call that art. God can take a poor worthless, devastated hell-bound sinner, condemned by God, wash him in the blood of Jesus Christ and make him a son of God. We call that grace! 1 John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God... Ephesians 1:6 ... he hath made us accepted in the beloved. 1 Peter 2:9-10 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

- 1) ...the fruitfulness of Grace! In Ephesians 2:7, Paul called this th
"exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through
Christ Jesus. And in 2 Cor. 4:15 he said "For all things are for
your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the
thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God"
- 2) ...we have a new Captain on board that is leading us with the
divine compass of His word: Psalm 32:8, "I will instruct thee and
teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with
mine eye." Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the LORD with all thine
heart; and lean not..."
- 3) Psalms 121:5 The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade
upon thy right hand. Proverbs 18:10 The name of the LORD is a
strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.
- 4) ...that which sustains life. Jesus said in John 7:37-38 "...If any
man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth
on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow
rivers of living water." There is sustaining life giving water in the
fields of grace! Steering fruitfulness in life, sheltering
fruitfulness in life, and sustaining fruitfulness in life all found in
personally experiencing God's abundant grace. Harry Truman, at
first thought he lost the election in 1945. The headlines read,
"Dewey defeats Truman." Later when the count was all in,
Truman had defeated Dewey. Truman wrote to his mother, "I
had hurried to the White House to see the president and when I
got there, I found out I was the president." Ruth came from
Moab with nothing, only to find out when she got to the field of
Boaz she had everything. How abundant is the grace of God.

verses, is not droppings and leftovers but the fruit

A. A Steering Fruitfulness (Vs 8)

Boaz is giving her guidance, he is steering her toward the gracious abundance he has in store for her. When

we are introduced to the grace of God we can see how begins to lead and guide us. Before the grace of God we were lost, misguided. But by the saving grace of God we

B. A Sheltering Fruitfulness - (Vs 9)

Boaz had a concern for the safety of Ruth. It seems as though Ruth was a very attractive woman. Boaz was ensuring Ruth that she would be safe.

We can take comfort that in the Grace of God there is nothing that can get to us without His permission or participation. Ps 121:5

C. A Sustaining Fruitfulness - (Vs 9)

This welfare provision for the gleaners said that they had a right to pick up the scraps and that's about it. Nothing to sustain the workers in the hot sun. But Boaz offers Ruth refreshing sustaining water. In the fruitful

ness of grace we have that which

IV. Gleaning the Fullness of Grace

Talk about a productive day
She woke up that morning not having a clue where he next meal would come from and now she has all at

her needs met. a day filled with God's grace will

A. The Falling in Fullness - vs 10

She was nigh unto speechless. Such kindness, and compassion shown to one so undeserving. All she could do was fall before him and ask why? If you would like to be escorted into real worship, take a lesson from Ruth. When we get a grip on what God has done

B. The Fact Behind Fullness - (11-12)

Boaz responds to her question. It's because there was a turning by faith in her life to trust the God of Abraham Isaac & Jacob. Thy God shall be my God! Eph 2:8 For by Grace are ye saved thru Faith. The Forbearing, Forgiving, fields of Grace are experienced by faith. The Fact

C. The Function of Fullness - (vs 13)

How does this fullness function in Ruth's life. I want you to continue to find favor in me. She had a desire to please him. The fullness of the grace of God has its out workings in obedience to God. As that great Hym states Oh to grace how great a debtor daily am.

IV. Close - Oh how rich and full are the fields of God's grace. May be you need to glean from some of its rich resources. Maybe you are in Noah's condition, come to the Grace of God in Jesus

- 1) ...grace will have an affect on you as it did Ruth.
- 2) ...God has done for us, we ought to throw our self righteous pride to the side bow down at his feet and cry with tears of thankfulness and awe ask "Why?" Why would you save an old messed up wreck like me. Why would you see fit to bestow such a gracious field to my disposal? Why such kindness and love? It seems to my that this moment in the field with Ruth in Boaz gets to the heart of worship!
- 3) ...daily I'm constrained to be. Let Thy goodness, like a fetter bind my wandering soul to Thee." An understanding of God's grace makes us realize what a debtor to grace we are.
- 4) Two or three years before John Newton (the author of Amazing Grace) died, his sight was so dim that he was no longer able to read. A friend and brother in the ministry would have breakfast with him, and their custom was that he would read the Word of God. Newton would make a few remarks on the passage and then they would pray. One particular day they read the words of Paul, "By the grace of God I am what I am" (see I Cor.15:10). Newton was silent for the longest and finally he said, "I am not what I ought to be! How imperfect and deficient I am! I am not what I wish to be, although I abhor that which is evil and would cleave to that which is good! I am not what I hope to be, but soon I shall be out of mortality, and with it all sin and imperfection. Though I am not what I ought to be, nor what I wish to be, nor yet what I hope to be, I can truly say, I am not what I once was: a slave to sin and Satan. I can heartily join with the Apostle and acknowledge that by the grace of God I am what I am.!"